

Critter Chronicles

Summer 2021 | Vol 38 Issue 2

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- 132 Dogs and Cats Flown to Wisconsin
- New WHS Gear Now Available



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All aboard! 132 Dogs & Cats Flown to Wisconsin



In June, the Wisconsin Humane Society coordinated an effort to welcome 91 dogs from Texas and 41 cats from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Both groups were part of a lifesaving trip after their animal shelters became overcrowded.

We are tremendously grateful to BISSELL Pet Foundation for supporting this flight. After being escorted from Tulsa to Waukesha by WHS staff member Emilie the animals were sent to WHS campuses, as well as Elmbrook Humane Society, Shawano County Humane Society, Marshfield

Area Pet Shelter, Eau Claire County Humane Association, Humane Society of Jefferson County, South Wood County Humane Society, Coulee Region Humane Society, Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin, and Lakeshore Humane Society.

A HUGE shoutout to the Humane Society of Tulsa for championing these efforts, and endless gratitude to our community for making these life-changing moments possible. We couldn't do it without your incredible support!



PET GALA

PAWS & CLAWS GALA



PRESENTED BY

Northwestern Mutual®



SAVE THE DATE

October 16, 2021
The Pfister Hotel

Join us on Saturday, October 16 at The Pfister Hotel for our biggest fundraiser of the year. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. and guests will enjoy a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, raffles, a wine pull, and dinner, all to support animals in need!

Did we mention that it's also the only gala in town where you can mingle with shelter pups, some fabulous felines, and a few of our very best wildlife ambassadors? You don't want to miss this. **To learn more about sponsorship, tickets, and this year's event, visit gala.wihumane.org or contact us at events@wihumane.org.**

Auction Items Needed

Do you have unused gift cards, nice bottles of wine or liquor, new home electronics, kitchenware, or unique, one-of-a-kind items at home? Consider donating them to this year's silent auction. All funds raised will directly benefit the animals in our care.

For more information or to fill out our auction donation form, please visit gala.wihumane.org or email rward@wihumane.org.

THANK YOU!

Pet Walk

**There's no place
like home.**



We were blown away by the generosity of everyone who supported the 2021 Pet Walks in Milwaukee and Green Bay! While the walks may have looked a little different this year, they were a huge success and we cannot thank you enough for your dedication and support of animals in need. Whether you helped spread the word about the events, collected donations to earn prizes, donated to a friend's page, or registered and walked with us at one of our locations in June, we owe this year's success to you!

A special thank you to our 2021 Pet Walk Sponsors:

The 2021 Pet Walk Green Bay was proudly presented by Capital Credit Union

WISN 12 NEWS | WFRV | STAR 98 | VCA ANIMAL HOSPITALS | FIS | SUMMERFEST | MIKE'S HARD LEMONADE | BROADWAY AUTOMOTIVE | FROMM FAMILY FOODS | GREEN BAY PACKERS GIVE BACK | ANDREW AUTOMOTIVE GROUP | GLAISNER FAMILY FOUNDATION | HILL'S PET NUTRITION | IBEW LOCAL 494 | KRUEGER INTERNATIONAL, INC | ZESTY'S FROZEN CUSTARD | ELANCO FOLEY & LARDNER LLP | VON BRIESEN & ROPER | WVRC (WISCONSIN VETERINARY REFERRAL CENTER) | CAMP BOW WOW | TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA | FESTIVAL FOODS | GRUBER LAW OFFICES | BAIRD – THE SCHMID SMITH GROUP | STANDARD PROCESS

Get Involved in Giveback Days!

Know a business that wants to participate in a Community Giveback Day to support animals at WHS?

Participating businesses donate a portion of their daily sales back to WHS, encouraging community members to shop or eat and drink, all to help our furry friends. We're hosting a Community Giveback Day on Thursday, July 29 for Brown & Door Counties and a Restaurant Giveback Day on Thursday, August 19 for Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Racine Counties.



To learn more or participate, contact us:

Community Giveback Day (Green Bay, Door County): Lori Nachtwey | lnachtwey@wihumane.org | 920-469-3110 ext. 2119
Restaurant Giveback Day (Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine): Ruadhan Ward | rward@wihumane.org | 414-431-6122

Kitten Found Under the Floor



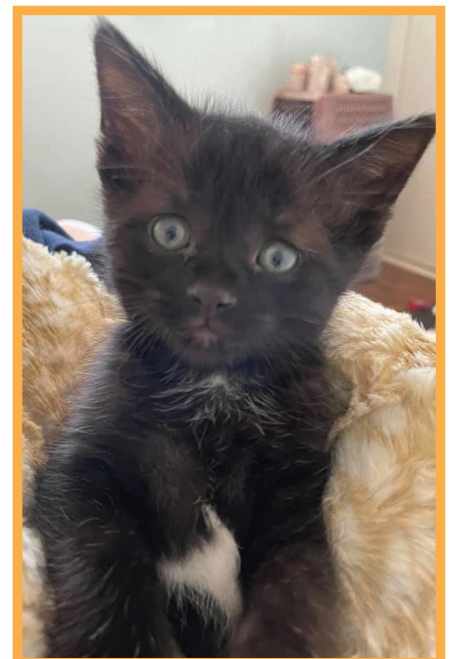
While renovating a home in Sturgeon Bay, a woman was shocked to find a baby kitten trapped in the subfloor!

It is unclear how the kitten got himself into this precarious location, and unfortunately, there was no mom to be found. In order to free him, the wall was sawed open and he was then rushed to a vet clinic for care.

After initial treatment, Fig (as we named him), was brought to the WHS Green Bay Campus where he received further medical attention for a tail injury.

At just 4 weeks old, this tiny kitten had a lot of growing to do! He was doted upon in a loving foster home, and his foster mom shared this message with us: "Fig is doing amazing! He's really a sweetheart for having a nasty wound. He takes his meds like a champ, good eater, and is the best snuggler." We're thrilled to report he made a full recovery and has since found a family to call his own!

We can't thank our community enough for the incredible support that ensures we are here to help kittens like Fig when they need us most!



In-person Kids Programs Resume—and Now in Racine!

Our youth programs team engaged thousands of kids in our mission through virtual programs this school year. We were delighted with the response to our virtual programs like field trips, birthday parties, and scout programs, but nothing compares to being able to connect with kids in-person so they can meet animals.

This spring, we were able to bring back programs like Kids' Night Out and Wednesday Wags with limited enrollment and other precautions to keep participants safe. We launched youth programs in our new Racine Campus building this fall, but because of COVID-19, we initially needed to host programs virtually.

In April, we offered our first-ever in-person program at our new Racine Campus building! Participants interacted with the sweetest pooch named Syrup, played games, learned about turtles,

and made the cutest paper plate turtle craft. The kids had a great time. After the program, one parent shared the following: "Pictures don't do justice in capturing [my child's] excitement in spending the evening with you and the animals. She absolutely loved it and is already asking when she gets to go back to spend time with you and Syrup."

Our youth programs team is so excited to offer camps at our Milwaukee, Ozaukee, and Racine Campuses this summer. We also launched a brand-new scholarship program, which provides young people the opportunity to attend summer camp if finances are a barrier. We are providing 35 young people with a full tuition scholarship to a WHS camp this summer, and we can't wait to have all of our campers join in the fun activities we have planned.



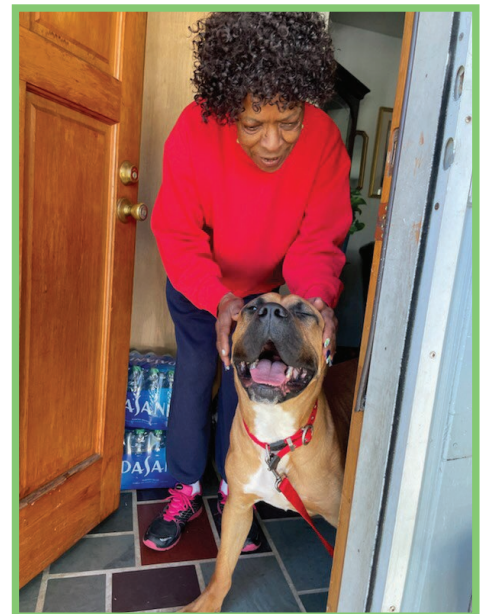
We look forward to providing even more opportunities for kids in our communities next school year. Keep an eye out for our fall programs on our webpage: www.wihumane.org/for-kids

One Lucky Dog

Our Pets for Life outreach team met Carolyn and her senior dog, Lucky, in 2017 while knocking on doors in Milwaukee's Harambee neighborhood. Unfortunately, Lucky passed away a few years later. Carolyn missed having the companionship of a dog, so she brought Lucky II, whom she named after the dog she loved so much, into her life.

Carolyn called our Pets for Life team right away after getting Lucky II to sign him up for a free neuter surgery offered through the program. Lucky II was the first dog Carolyn had spayed or neutered, so she was understandably a bit nervous about the surgery. The Pets for Life team was there to support Carolyn and Lucky II through the entire process.

Our team is humbled to be one of the first calls the families we serve make after bringing a new animal home, and we're grateful for the trust the community puts in us to take care of their beloved family members.



New WHS Gear Now Available!



We know how much our supporters love the Wisconsin Humane Society and want to show their support so we have added a bunch of new WHS apparel and accessories to our online store! You can choose from a number of styles of T-shirts, hoodies, and other apparel, including options for kids, as well as home goods like mugs—even pajamas! Best of all, you can combine these items with the thousands of other products and supplies we offer at shop.wihumane.org—you can even get FREE shipping on orders over \$59!

We'll be continually updating this selection with new styles and designs, so keep checking back or Like our Animal Antics Retail Store Facebook page for updates. As always with all purchases from our online store, ALL proceeds stay right with the Wisconsin Humane Society and support us in serving over 40,000 animals and their families each year. Happy shopping!

ANIMAL ANTICS RETAIL STORE | shop.wihumane.org | follow us



Ways to Give

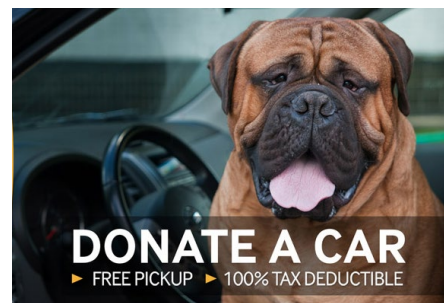


Donate your cell phone

414-431-6119 | ccarini@wihumane.org

Wondering what to do with your old cell phone? Don't throw it away! Your phone can help animals at the shelter. The Wisconsin Humane Society participates in a cell phone recycling program. This program helps protect the environment by keeping these recyclable items out of landfills, while at the same time bringing in funds to help animals in our community.

WHS can earn up to \$400 per phone! You can drop off your phone during our business hours. If you have any questions, please contact our Development Department at 414-431-6119 or email ccarini@wihumane.org.



Donate your vehicle

414-431-6119 | wihumane.org click "other ways to donate"

When you're thinking of ways to support the Wisconsin Humane Society, you might not think about your mode of transportation, but it could be a huge way to help animals in need! If your vehicle is at the end of its life or if you're ready to upgrade, we would love for you to consider donating through our Autos for Animals program!

Vehicle donations are 100% tax deductible and the vehicle doesn't even have to run to be accepted! It's not just for cars either—this program also takes trailers, boats, RVs, motorcycles, off-road vehicles, heavy equipment, and most other motorized vehicles. You don't even need to bring it in—we'll pick it up for you and use the generated funds to care for animals in our community.

Behavior Tip: Litter Box Success



We receive many questions about cat and litter box usage, and wanted to share some great info with you! Cats are individuals and while some will use their litter box regardless of the set-up, many have specific preferences and require certain conditions in order to use it consistently. It is important to set your cat up for success in their home, regardless of their history with the litter box.

Here are some recommendations and tips for litter box success:

- The rule of thumb for how many litter boxes you should have is: one per cat in the household, plus one. It is necessary to have extra litter boxes because some cats prefer to defecate in one and urinate in another, or don't like to share their box with other cats. We recommend that the litter boxes be uncovered and at least 22" x 16" for an adult cat.
- Place extra litter boxes in accessible locations where the cat will not be disturbed by children or other animals. Additionally, if your house has several stories, each floor should have its own box. More options increase the likelihood that they will use the litter box.
- Make sure that the boxes are in quiet areas, as noisy spots near washing machines, furnaces, or under stairs may frighten them. Cats also prefer to go to the bathroom away from their food and water. Once you have decided on the placement of the litter boxes, it is best not to move them.
- Use an unscented, sand-like scoopable litter—we recommend choosing a brand that clumps into a firm ball, as it makes cleaning the box much easier. It is important not to use scented litter, as perfumed, chemical smells tend to repel cats.
- Avoid covered or hooded litter boxes because they can be quite frustrating to cats. They trap the odor inside, which creates an unpleasant smell, and also do not allow the cat to easily escape should they feel the need to.
- The most common reason why a cat stops using their litter box is because it is not being cleaned properly. Litter boxes should be scooped at least once per day and fully washed if heavily soiled. Wash the box a minimum of one time each month with hot water and unscented dishwashing liquid.
- If your cat is avoiding the litter box after following these recommendations, check out the handout, "Solving Litter Box Problems" at wihumane.org/behavior/ask-the-experts.

Don't hesitate to contact the Wisconsin Humane Society behavior team at asktheexpert@wihumane.org or 414-431-6173 if you have any questions along the way!

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Virginia Opossums



We often admit baby opossums after something has happened to their mother, such as being hit by a vehicle. As a marsupial, she carries her babies in her pouch, and even if she is critically injured or even killed, sometimes her babies can still survive. This is a litter of 9 Virginia Opossums recently in our care. They had a rough start to get here, but are in good care now. Once they are old enough to be on their own, we will release them back into the wild as they were always meant to be. Thanks so much for supporting this work!

Fledglings



Many birds go through a transition stage as they age where they are learning to fly and fend for themselves. This is their fledgling stage (think of this as their teenager years), where they're learning how to be fully functioning adult birds. Their parents are likely close by and help feed them periodically, but you won't always see them directly by their side.

These Mourning Doves are in a very urban location just sitting under a tree, not readily flying away when people get somewhat close to them, but they are fledglings and doing great!

Many people call us about young birds they've encountered and believe they're injured, but in reality, they just aren't great at flying yet. Many times these birds are just very new to this world, so they may not have fully learned everything they need to know. However, it can be tough to determine if the bird you found needs help or not. Call a wildlife rehabilitator if the bird looks hurt or injured (such as one wing drooping), if you see blood, or notice other signs of injury. If someone calls us about a young bird, we'll often request they send us images, as well, to help us better understand the situation.

American Robin



This adult American Robin was admitted with string entangled around her tongue! Our medical team was very concerned as it seemed pretty tight, but we were so relieved (and we're sure this poor robin was as well), when we were able to safely remove it. This could have ended very differently had she not been found by a caring individual and brought in for care. If you find string, wire, plastic, or garbage outside, please make the effort to dispose of it properly, even if you didn't put it there originally. Your actions could be helping to save a life! Thankfully, this Robin was successfully released back where she was found.

Visit our website at wihumane.org/wildlife to find more information about how to determine if an animal you've found is truly in need of help or if it's best to leave them be.